

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. *(currently amended)* A method for managing microcode, comprising the steps of:
 - evaluating a mode command to initiate or change a mode;
 - selecting a combination of functions, each function including microinstructions that, when executed, implement a phase or a sub-phase of said mode;
validating or optimizing one or more of the functions to produce said combination; and
 - delivering said combination to a microcode processor.

2. *(previously presented)* A method according to claim 1, wherein said selecting step further comprises the step of:
 - querying a storage medium to select said combination.

3. *(previously presented)* A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
 - loading said combination into a microcode instruction memory.

4. *(previously presented)* A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

loading a sequence list into a microcode data memory, wherein said sequence list includes a memory address to said combination.

5. *(previously presented)* A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

executing said combination to implement said mode.

6. *(previously presented)* A method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

sending a result from said executing step to a processor for pixel processing or additional microcode processing.

7. *(previously presented)* A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

sending drawing data to a microcode processor prior to said executing step.

8. *(previously presented)* A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

sending drawing data to a microcode processor to render three dimensional graphics.

9. (*previously presented*) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

 sending drawing data to a microcode processor to render an animation scene.

10. (*previously presented*) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

 sending drawing data to a microcode processor to render a scene for a video game.

11. (*currently amended*) A system for managing microcode, comprising:
 a mode detector for evaluating a mode command to initiate or change a mode; and

 a sequence identifier for selecting a combination of functions, each function including microinstructions that, when executed, implement a phase or a sub-phase of said mode, wherein said sequence identifier is adapted to validate or optimize one or more of the functions to produce said combination.

12. (*previously presented*) A system of claim 11, further comprising a code loader for loading said combination into a microcode instruction memory.

13. (*previously presented*) A system of claim 11, further comprising:

a phase executor for commanding a microcode processor to execute said combination.

14. *(previously presented)* A system of claim 11, further comprising:
a drawing data processor for sending drawing data or input for drawing data to a microcode processor in response to said mode command.

15. *(previously presented)* A system of claim 11, further comprising:
a drawing data processor for sending drawing data or input for drawing data to a microcode processor to render a three dimensional model in response to said mode command.

16. *(previously presented)* A system of claim 11, further comprising:
a drawing data processor for sending drawing data or input for drawing data to a microcode processor to render an animation scene in response to said mode command.

17. *(previously presented)* A system of claim 11, further comprising:
a microcode data memory for storing a sequence list specifying a memory address to said combination.

18. *(currently amended)* A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable program code means embedded in

said medium for causing an application program to execute on a computer used to manage microcode, said computer readable program code means comprising:

first computer readable program code means for causing the computer to evaluate a mode command to initiate or change a mode; [and]

second computer readable program code means for causing the computer to select a combination of functions, each function including microinstructions that, when executed, implement a phase or a sub-phase of said mode;

third computer readable program code means for causing the computer to validate or optimize one or more of the functions to produce said combination.

19. (*previously presented*) A computer program product according to claim 18, wherein said second computer readable program code means loads said combination into a microcode instruction memory.

20. (*currently amended*) A computer program product according to claim 18, further comprising:

~~third~~ fourth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to command a microcode processor to execute said combination.

21. (*currently amended*) A computer program product according to claim 18, further comprising:

~~third~~ fourth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to send drawing data or input for drawing data to a microcode processor in response to said mode command.

22. *(currently amended)* A computer program product according to claim 18, further comprising:

~~third~~ fourth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to send drawing data or input for drawing data to a microcode processor to render three-dimensional graphics in response to said mode command.

23. *(currently amended)* A computer program product according to claim 18, further comprising:

~~third~~ fourth computer readable program code means for causing the computer to store a sequence list specifying a memory address to said combination.

24. *(currently amended)* A method for managing microcode, comprising the steps of:

accessing a library of functions, each function including microinstructions that, when executed, implement a phase or a sub-phase of a ~~graphic~~ graphics mode;

selecting a combination of functions from said library in response to a mode command to produce a desired mode;

validating or optimizing one or more of the functions to produce said combination;

delivering said combination to a processor;
delivering drawing data to said processor; and
executing said combination to process said drawing data and thereby
render said desired mode.

25. *(currently amended)* A method according to claim 24, wherein said
~~selecting~~ validating or optimizing step comprises:

selecting a merger group from said library, wherein said merger group
includes a combination of microinstructions that, when executed, implement a plurality
of phases of a ~~graphic~~ graphics mode.

26. *(currently amended)* A method according to claim 24, wherein said
~~selecting~~ validating or optimizing step comprises:

preprocessing data for said combination to calculate values used
repetitively during said executing step.

27. *(new)* A method according to claim 24, wherein said validating or
optimizing step comprises:

validating a loading state of a function selected for said combination.

28. *(new)* A method according to claim 24, wherein said validating or
optimizing step comprises:

searching for a faster version of a function selected for said combination.

29. (*new*) A method according to claim 24, wherein said validating or optimizing step comprises validating one or more of the functions to produce said combination.